AN

# ACCOUNT

Of the Pretended

# Prince of Wales,

AND OTHER

# GRIEVANSES,

That occaſioned the Nobilities Inviting, and the Prince of *Orange*'s Coming into *England*.

To which is added, a ſhort

# ACCOUNT

OF THE

# MURTHER

OF THE

# Earl of Eſſex,

Clearing his Lordſhip from the malicious Slander of Murthering himſelf.

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# AN ACCOUNT

## Of the Pretended

# Prince of Wales, &c.

THere is nothing more certain, then that the Proteſtants of *England*, who have moſt conſtantly adher'd to the Truth of their Religion and eſtabliſhed Government of the Realm, have been all along haraſs'd and oppreſs'd by the Perſecution of the Papiſts, upheld by the Supream Authority. Numerous were the Illegalities impoſed upon them, contrary to their Conſciences, and unleſs they would comply with unlawful and arbitrary Commands, they were removed from their Benefices and Employments.

Many that ne're offended againſt the Law, were unduly proſecuted, and deprived of their Rihgts and Livelihoods in their Churches and Colledges, and ſentenced by arbitrary Courts.

In Cities and Towns the People were denied the free Election of their Magiſtrates and Officers, who were put in and turn'd out at pleaſure, till ſuch were met with who were ready to comply with the Popiſh Deſigns.

The Laws provided for the Security of the Proteſtant Religion and the Peoples Liberties, were trodden under foot by a pretended Diſpenſive Power, by which the Foundations of the Peoples Properties and Liberties were quite taken away, and ſubjected to Arbitrary Will and Pleaſure.

The Militia of the Kingdom was put into the Hands of ſuch whom the Laws of the Land have rendered uncapable, and all by Colour of that Diſpenſing Power, to the great Terror of the Proteſtants, finding themſelves at the Mercy of their declared and mortal Enemies; which Terrors, were not a little augmented by the maintaining and quartering up and down the Kingdom, a

great Army of Iriſh Papiſts and other Mercenaries, in a time of Peace and general Repoſe.

All Execution of Laws made againſt Popiſh Prieſts and Jeſuites, and to prevent the Miſchiefs apprehended from their Plots and Contrivances, were actually prohibited, and what thoſe Laws adjudged to be Treaſon in a high Degree, was cancell'd and rendred invalid by that pretended *Diſpenſing Power*; ſo that they who were Criminals by ſeveral Statutes of the Realm, walk'd bareſac'd in the Streets without controul.

A ſtop was alſo put to the free Courſe of Juſtice, and the Judges, of whom, many have greatly aſſiſted the Popiſh Deſigns, put in and out till they made the Law ſpeak Condemnation or Acquittal at the Pleaſure of the Court.

By all which it appears, that there was a publick Deſign countenanced and upheld by the King, to overturn the whole Frame of both the Civil and Eccleſiaſtical Government of the Kingdom, by depriving the People of their undoubted Right of Freedom to elect their Deputies in Parliament, who are to act in their Behalf for the making and repealing of Laws.

For in regard that by the free Government of *England*, no Laws can bind either the Perſons or Properties of the People, but ſuch as are agreed to by the joynt Conſent, as well of the Subject as of the Prince; there by antient Statutes of the Realm, it is moſt carefully provided, that the Elections of Parliament Men ſhall be ſo free, that neither the King himſelf, nor any other Perſon ſhall preſume to diſturb or interrupt their free Courſe. So that if any Election ſhould happen to be carried, either by Commands or Threatnings, by underhand Solicitations, or promiſed Bribes of Favours or Rewards, the ſame ſhall be utterly void; and the Perſons electing are to be no way byaſſed, and ſo to carry themſelves at the Time and Place of Election, as may adminiſter no occaſion of Miſtruſt.

But in defiance of theſe Laws, the Popiſh Party of late have made it their Buſineſs by all ways and means, to overturn, and utterly eradicate all the Franchiſes, Charters and Priviledges of the ſeveral Cities and Boroughs of *England*, by whom the greateſt part of the Commons are choſen, on purpoſe to ſubject thoſe Corporations to the Kings Will and Pleaſure, and to oblige them, as his Dependants, to ſerve his Popiſh and Arbitrary Deſigns, while they that refuſed to comply, were turned out

of

of their Places to make room for Papasts, or any that would sell themselves to serve the Popish Interest.

However, that there might not want pretence of Law for the overwhelming of the Government, Writs of *Quo Warranto* were issu'd forth against all the most considerable Cities and Corporations of the Realm, without any Cause or Ground of Offence. At what time, Instruments were not wanting at the same Conjuncture, to manage the Magistrates with the Kings Displeasure, if they appear'd to be so hardy, as to insist upon their own Defence, or offered to go to Law with the King for the maintaining of their just Rights and Priviledges; so that several were scared with the Excess of the Changes, and the certainty of being cast at length, and surrendered their Charters, rather than oppose the Current of Compulsion that ran so violently against them.

For it is notorious, that the Popish prevailing Party had their Judges ready fix'd to over-rule whatever Pleas the Towns or Cities could make in defence of their Rights; of which, *London* it self was a remarkable President. And such Judges as could not in Conscience condescend to cancel such Ancient Records of the former English Monarchs Immunities and Favours, were presently casheer'd. While those other Judges that succeeded, being more easily poyson'd with the Lustre of Gain and Honour, made nothing of illegal Sentences, to comply with their Popsh Patrons, to the Enflaming of their native Country, while the Magistrates of all the chief Corporations of the Kingdom, were now become wholly dependant upon the Kings Pleasure.

But besides these publick Violences offered to the setled Constitutions of Cities and Corporations, the Vertue and Constancy of private Persons has been endeavour'd to be shaken by the promis'd Favours and menacing Aw of Majesty it self, while the Knack of Closetting was used to make Men prostitute their Voices for Elections, in compliance with the Popish Designs, and none were thought fit to hold Offices and Employments, but such as would surrender up their own, and the Freedoms of others, to facilitate the Intreagues of Popery.

The Lords Lieutenants of the several Counties also, and a Crew of strange Commissioners, no less odly instructed, were sent into the several Sheirs, to corrupt, if possible they could, both

both the Gentry and Commonalty, to give their Voices for the Electing such Members, for a packt Parliament, as they knew would be most ready to annul the Penal Laws and Tests, the chiefest Securities of our establish'd Religion and the only agreeable Means to prevent the Dangers and Mischiefs threatned by the pernicious Doctrines and Practises of the Church of *Rome*.

By such means as these it was intended that the Tests and all Penal Laws made against the Popish Priests and Jesuits, and extending Punishments and Forfeitures against all other Papists, acting against the Government, should have been all abolished by a packt Number of Men elected contrary to the native Rights and Priviledges of the Nation, under the Name of a Parliament. That so the Papists being at full Liberty, might usurp what they pleased, without fear of being troubled or questioned for it, upon the Freedom, Properties and Estates of the Protestants. For what would the Laws of *England* signifie, when the Popes *Canons* should be publickly maintain'd to be above them. For Mass-houses, Convents of Monks, and Provincial Bishops, were not only tolerated, but openly upheld in defiance of the Law, and things were already carried to that height, that there was no possibility of ever obtaining a free Parliament, considering the present Alterations in the Cities and Corporations, the Persons of the Sheriffs and other Officers, all fitting for their Purposes, or else in a readiness to be turn'd out, and the Condition of those whose Right it is to Elect, who lay under the unhappy Circumstances of being deprived of their Freedom in Elections, and were threatned with the Kings Displeasure, and subjected to several other Inconveniences and Losses of Offices and Preferments, if they refus'd to accept of such Persons as had treacherously promised and undertaken to repeal the Established Laws of the Kingdom against the Papists. Amongst whom, it is a Maxim, that the Protestants are not capable to claim any Benefit or Advantage of any Treaties, Oaths or Engagements made them by any Popish Prince.

For indeed there is nothing so terrible to the Popish Party, as the frequent Assembling of Free Parliaments in *England*. And therefore it was that the King of *France*, who had entered into a Design, at his first coming to his Crown, to abolish the Protestant Religion, and root it out of the World, under the Name of the Northern Heresie, was so very liberal to the late King,

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to allow him a Penſion of five hundred thouſand Pounds a year, to keep off the Meeting of Free Parliaments, as appears by Letters, acknowledged by the late King, to have been written by his own Order.

Nor was *England* only, the Theater of the Plots and Contrivances of the Popiſh Prieſts and Jeſuits in thoſe times, their deep Deſigns reach'd even to the Subverſion of the United Provinces, becauſe they were ſuch a continual Sanctuary to the Proteſtants. To which purpoſe, as it is well known to all the World, by the continual Workings of the Popiſh Party, the late King was drawn in to make an Agreement with the King of *France*, to have ſubdued and ſhar'd the united Netherlands. Nor did thoſe two Confederate Princes ſtick to make Propoſals even to his Highneſs the Prince of *Orange* himſelf, though rejected with that Scorn and Indignation which became ſo great and generous a Prince: And as the Deſign of the *French* King againſt the Proteſtants was general, ſo was he no leſs Sedulous to ſcatter his Penſions among the chief Miniſters in the Courts of *Sweden* and *Brandenburgh*, and of all other Princes that ſtood faſt to the Proteſtant Religion.

But the main of his Pious Liberality, was in his Expences upon the late King of *England*, and his chief Favourites and Counſellers, who made no ſcruple to aſſiſt in the ſecret Contrivances, to enfeeble the Proteſtant Intereſt, and to advance the Grandeur of the King of *France*, though the King of *England* were then fhy of joyning openly with him in his chief Deſign of ruining the Proteſtants, for fear of embroiling himſelf with his own Subjects at Home. But nothing gave a greater Check to the *French* Kings Proceeding at that time, then the Parliaments Importunity with the King, to ſeparate himſelf from his Joynt Engagements with *France*, and make a Peace with the States of *Holland*; which being procured, broke all the Meaſures which thoſe two Princes had taken before; and compell'd the haughty *French* Man to deſire a Truce. Nor durſt he after that, adventure to diſplay himſelf in his natural Colours, till he ſaw that the preſent King of *England* had eſpouſed the Popiſh Intereſt. But then he ſeton foot his intended Perſecution, which how Cruel, Inhumane and Barbarous it was, the publick Relations ſufficiently make manifeſt.

However, in regard the See of *Rome* has always deem'd it her

her chiefeſt Maſterpiece to extirpate the Proteſtant Religion out of *England*, therefore ſhe hath made it her chief Study, and employ'd all her Craft, her Politicks and Villanons Inventions, to bring it to paſs in this Nation; to which end, ſhe thought there could be no way more effectual, then ſtrictly to unite the two Princes, now both of the ſame Religion together that with united Strength and Treaſure, they might the more eaſily be enabled to bring about their Grand Deſign. And indeed the *French* Preſident, was too exactly followed, that it may well be ſaid, that the Methods here obſerved, were the ſame with thoſe which had been taken in *France*; the Invaſion of the Civil Govetnment and eſtabliſh'd Laws, and the very Freedom and Eſſential Being of Parliaments, ſucceſsful for a time, to have reduced all the Officers and Magiſtrates of the Kingdom under Subjection to Abſolute Will and Pleaſure. And who could otherwiſe expect, but that the Lives and Liberties, the Eſtates and Properties of the People of *England* muſt have all been at the Kings Diſpoſal, when the Juries were ſo corrupted, and the more corrupt Judges and Chancellor ſo entirely at his Devotion, and ſo plung'd in acting contrary to the Law, that they could be no where ſafe, but under his Protection.

In this ſad and deſolate Conjuncture of Affairs, wherein the Proteſtant Religion, the Ancient Honour and Glory of the *Engliſh* Nation, the Rights, Priviledges, Liberties and Properties of the Native Inhabitants, from the Higheſt to the Loweſt, were all going to rack; the Peers and Perſons of great Quality had no where elſe to place their Hopes and Confidence of Delivery from Popiſh Thraldom, but in her Royal Highneſs, as being Heir Apparent to the Crown, which being joyn'd to the Celebrated Vertue, and Renown which attended his Highneſs the Prince of *Orange*, for Military Conduct and Heroick Magnanimity, as it was no ſmall Conſolation to the *Engliſh* Lords, ſo did it no leſs tormoil and perplex the Councils and Deliberations of the Papiſh with Terror and Conſternation; which made them enter into various Conſultations to ward off this Threatning Oppoſition to their Deſigns. Some propoſed the obſtructing their Highneſſes coming to the Crown by ſuch fettring Conditions as were obtained in Parliament in the Reigns of Queen *Mary* and Queen *Elizabeth*, which the Parliament ſo garbled, as was deſign'd by the Kings Power, would

would readily condeſcend to, and would afterwards be ſtrengthened by the Papiſts in full Poſſeſſion of all the Strength and Authority of the Realm, and aſſiſted by all the Forces of the King of *France*; but the more wary Papiſts not liking the Aw of Mercenary Force, and *French* Compulſion, to bound and limit the Heireſs to the Imperial Crown of *England*, propoſed that the King ſhould make uſe of his Paternal Authority with her Royal Highneſs, to bring her off to the Popiſh Religion, or elſe to perſwade her to have more moderate Thoughts concerning it, or elſe to grant them an abſolute Toleration. If this Project failed yet they were ſtill in Hopes that his Highneſs the Prince of *Orange* might be wrought upon to concur with the Kings Declarations for Liberty of Conſcience, and the Repeal of the Penal Laws and Teſt. Not believing that his Highneſs would be ſo nice as to make any ſtrict Inquiſition into the Eccleſiaſtical Penal Laws, enacted ſo many hundred years ago againſt the apparent Uſurpations of *Rome*; or that he would have underſtood that the Eccleſiaſtical Penal Laws, comprehend the moſt evident and authentick Declarations, if that they are to be produced from any Records of the Rights belonging to the Crown of *England*, of the ancient Conſtitution of the Government, and of the Priviledges that appertain, as well to the People; and that therein might be underſtood the Claims and Uſurpations of the See of *Rome*, which occaſioned the Enacting thoſe Laws to preſerve the Freedom and Priviledges of the *Engliſh* Nation. Nor did they believe that his Highneſs would have diſcovered the Miſchiefs attending the Repeal of the Eccleſiaſtical Penal Laws; ſeeing that the meer Enacting the Kings Declaration had been ſuch an Eſtabliſhment of Popery, that the Church of *Rome* could not have deſired a Better: So that the Popiſh Councils would have been ſatified with his Highneſſes Concurrence; of which they thought themſelves ſo ſure, that the Jeſuits gave it out that his Highneſs had conſented, and that the King and his Highneſs underſtood one another well enough. However, theſe Reports were ſoon laid aſleep, and talk'd privately about at Court, that the King ſhould ſay their Highneſſes were obſtinate in their Errors, and that he would put himſelf to no farther trouble about them, but that it ſhould be the worſe for them.

Nor was it long after, that a general Rumor was ſpread a-

bout in the Town, that the Queen was with Child, which elevated the Papiſts to that degree, that they began to inſult over the Proteſtants, and ſpar'd not to boaſt, that though it were a Daughter, being born after the King was Crown'd, it would prevent the Succeſſion of her Royal Highneſs, who was Born when the King was only Duke. But the Queens being with Child was a Story believed by none but the Papiſts; and the Proteſtants were the more confirmed in their Miſ-belief by the Fable of the Lady of *Loretto*, and the Dutcheſſes of *Modena*'s Applications to Heaven in her Daughters Behalf, and every Body derided and lampoon'd the Mummery, which they look'd upon to be a meer Contrivance of the Jeſuits.

Nevertheleſs, for the ſpace of eight or nine Months, the Expectations of the Queens Delivery were ſuch, that the Proteſtants both at Home and Abroad were not a little diſheartned, apprehenſive of the Diſappointment of her Royal Highneſs; and the Papiſts greatly incouraged to carry on their Deſigns with more Vigour. But the *Engliſh* Lords were not to learn how well vers'd the Prieſts and Jeſuits had been from time to time in ſeveral Ages, in framing ſuch Impoſtures and Forgeries as theſe, to alter the Succeſſions of Crowns for the Service of their Church, and therefore ſeeing them ſo ſedulouſly laborious to rivet a Belief of the Queens being with Child, in the Minds of the People, and undertaking to give them prophetical Aſſurances that it would be a Son; theſe double Diligences of the Prieſts, not only rais'd, but confirm'd the Lords in their Suſpitions, that there might be a Counterfeit Son impoſed upon the Kingdom, and ſet up for a Prince of *Wales*, and that the Prieſts were Actors in this Farce according to the Parts which they had delivered them; which cauſed the Lords to determine among themſelves to keep Memorials of the Carriage of the whole Contrivance, ſo far as their Information would give them leave. By which Obſervations, and diligent comparing of Circumſtances together, during the time of the Queens pretended going with Child, and Delivery of the Male Child, the Lords were ſo fully convinced of the Truth of what they ſuſpected, that they no longer queſtioned the pretended Prince of *Wales* to be a meer Counterfeit.

For firſt the Fundamental Rules of Equity and Juſtice require, that when a Child is to be born, which immediately upon

on the Birth becomes Heir to three Kingdoms, and at the ſame time diſappoints the Hopes of an Heireſs apparent, and the Expectances of ſeveral other Princes of the Blood, it is abſolutely requiſite that ſuch a Child be born of the Queens Body, and that the Birth of ſuch a Child be atteſted upon their certain Knowledge, by Witneſſes in Number anſwerable to the Importance of the Occaſion and ſuch a National Concern, and againſt whom there cannot be the leaſt Exception made for their Reputation, their Vertue, their Partiality, and undeniable Authority, ſufficient to convince the whole World by the Weight of their Teſtimony. For ſuch is the Caſe of a Male Heir to the Crown of *England*, that no ſooner is a Son of the Queens Body born of her Body, but that at the very ſame Minute and Inſtant of time, all Pretenſions of Right and Apparencies in any other Perſon ceaſe, how ſtrong and valid ſoever they might be at the very Moment before. And therefore there is nothing againſt which all the Laws, Civil Juſtice and Government more charily provide, then againſt the Violation of Inheritances. And therefore the Proofs by which any Perſon is diſſeized of an Apparent Right, muſt be ſo certain, as to be beyond all Contradiction and Controwl. Otherwiſe it is a poſitive Breach of the Law of God, and of all that is Sacred upon Earth, a Diſſolution of all Property, Civil Juſtice and Government, to invade the Apparent and Lawful Right of any Perſon with manifeſt and undeniable Proof a Prince or Superior Right. Here then was her Royal Highneſs Heir Apparent to the Crowns of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, in probability to have been outed of her Apparent Right, by the pretended Birth of a Prince of *Wales*. It was therefore mainly requiſite, conſidering the Suſpiſions and Jealouſies which attended the Birth of this Prince of *Wales*, that he ſhould have been born in the Preſence of the Princes of the Blood, the Prelates of Higheſt Eccleſiaſtical Dignity, the chiefeſt of the Nobility, the Officers of Higheſt Truſt in the Nation, and the Embaſſadors and publick Miniſters of Forraign States and Princes. So that the Proofs of his Birth from the Body of the Queen, might have been ſo undoubted and unqueſtionable, that there ſhould not have been no room for the leaſt Appearance of Suſpition or Contradiction.

On the other side, it had been the Opinion of the World for some time, that the Queens Body had been so long disabled by Sickness and Infirmities, that she was not in a Capacity to bring forth a Son. According to the Judgment of Dr. *Willis*, who upon view of one of her Children, declar'd, that it wanted the Foot stocks and Ground-work of Life.

Then for the Generality of the Nation, they were so ill satisfied with the Queens being with Child, notwithstanding, whatever the King or the Queen affirmed of themselves, that hardly one in two hundred believ'd it, only they were constant in this, that they universally believ'd it to be a Design of the King and his Popish Councils, to impose a Counterfeit upon the Nation.

Neither was it a thing at all credited in the Courts of Forreign Princes, that the Queen was with Child; but rather lookt upon as a treacherous Contrivance of the Priests and Jesuits to have imposed upon the Nation, to fortifie their Party by the Hopes of a Popish Succession, and bring unthinking Protestants into the same Snare.

All Men apprehended that the Protestant Religion, not only in *England*, but in other Forraign Countries, would be much endanger'd, or else secured by the Queens Delivery, or not Delivery of a Son; and that the Birth of a Prince of *Wales*, would be a great Disappointment to the just Rights and Pretensions of such Princes and Princesses who had before his Birth a lawful Claim to no less than three Imperial Crowns; besides that, it menac'd *England* with the Calamity of falling under an Infant Chimera of a Prince, or rather, and more truly, under the Tyranny of *Rome* it self.

Which being the Consequences which would necessarily have follow'd upon the Advancement and Establishment of this Supposititious Prince of *Wales*, never equall'd or heard of before in story upon the Birth of any Prince in the Earth, certainly common Justice in General, and the Customs of *England*, there should have been such undoubted Proofs that the Counterfit Prince was Born of the Queen's Body, as should have admitted no objection, but answered every Circumstance, and suffic'd to have vanquish'd not only the jealousies and suspicions of the People of *England*, but of all other Forraign Nations.

To which purpose that the Women of spotless Integrity

should

ſhould have given Teſtimony of their perſonal view of the ſelf ſame individual Child's being really and *bona fide* delivered and iſſuing according to the courſe of Nature, from the Queen's Womb. And that the men ſhould have been enabl'd to make their Atteſtations upon occular view of the naked Infant withal the marks upon it of immediate ſeparation from the Womb, by the Aſſiſtance of Phyſitians and Women of experience; and in a word, that the teſtimonies of both Sexes ſhould have been anſwerable in greatneſs of Birth and Grandeur of Reputation and Authority to the occaſion in diſpute, the Perſons controverted, and the vaſt extent of that good or miſchief which might have prov'd the conſequence of all: Matrons of experience, probity and gravity: Perſons publickly known to the Kingdom, and not pitiful obſcure *Italians* and *French* that ſcarce were ever heard of either in this or any other Country. For ſeeing there was never ſuch an impending neceſſity to have clear'd this difficult point, and to diſpel thoſe jealouſies and miſtruſts, which gave a greater Alarum to the Nation then ever was given ſince the firſt founding of this Monarchy; certainly it highly concern'd the King and Queen to have made uſe of the moſt Noble and dignify'd teſtimonies that were in the Land, in regard that the Law requiring it, the only way to ſatisfie the Subject; is to ſatisfie the Law. Which had alſo been a ſatisfaction to Juſtice no leſs to be ſatisfy'd, ſeeing that the Birth of a counterfit Prince, was to have deveſted her by an Impoſture of her Apparent right of inheritance. Then again, it was not a little admired, why the King, who well underſtood that the Laws and Cuſtoms of *England* requir'd a fit and competant number of Witneſſes, and a far greater number in this caſe, where the conception of the Queen was lookt upon by the Univerſality of the Nation, as a Fictitious peice of Mochery, and were almoſt abſolutely confirm'd that a counterfit Prince was to be impos'd upon the Nation, ſhould produce ſo ſmall a number, and thoſe many of them ſo obſcure and little known to the World, that their names were hardly heard of before, and therefore ſince the maximes and reaſons of the *Engliſh* Law, are ſo ſevere in caſe of a Child pretended to be ſet up to the Excluſion of an Apparent Heir, and that there was ſuch great cauſe in this caſe of the Queen, and the pretended Prince of *Wales*, to ſuſpect a Forgery and an Impoſition upon the three Nations, in regard

there

there was no notice given to the Heir Apparent, of the time when this pretended Heir was to come into the World, nor to any other who had Titles in Expectancy, it was an Inference concluded from the Rules and Maxims of the *Engliſh* Law, which requires ſufficient Proof to put the matter of Fact out of doubt, that the Witneſſes of the Birth of the ſuppos'd Prince of *Wales*, ought not to be beleived, ſince they who were to make good the Claim of the ſuppoſed Prince, had time ſufficient to have given due notice to the Parties concern'd, and to have had Witneſſes of that Reputation, as might have put the Birth of the ſuppoſed Prince quite out of Diſpute.

And indeed it would have been but ordinary prudence to have a numerous Train of Witneſſes, and thoſe of different Honors, dignites and Intereſts; ſince it could never have been imagin'd that ſo conſiderable a number of Teſtimonies of both Sexes, ſo conſiderable for their Quality and Integrity and all various in their Offices, and dignities could ever have entered into a Confederacy to cheat the Nation with a St. *Martins* Prince, and be ſo true one to another in ſuch an unjuſt and wicked peice of Fraud.

On the other ſide, the Law admits no Man or Woman to be a witneſs that take a Bribe of Money or Preferment, or any other Emolument to engage themſelves in an Oath. More eſpecially will it not permit any Perſon or Perſons to be witneſſes concerning the Birth of this Fictitious Prince of *Wales*, who were in hopes or Expectation of any preferment, Offices or advantages by vertue of his Grandeur. Nor any Perſon or Perſons that have ſo much their dependance upon the Foſterers, and Setters up of this ſuppos'd Prince of *Wales*, that they dare not diſpleaſe them for fear of looſing their places. Nor any Perſon or Perſons who are commonly reputed or by Proof may be made appear to have any enmity, or prejudice againſt Her Highneſs, with whom the Counterfeit Prince chiefly ſtands in Competition, it being an unanſwerable exception againſt ſuch, that they are mortal Enemies to Her and the Proteſtant Religion, which ſhe profeſſes. Neither will the Laws of the Land allow the Teſtimony, or Declaration of the King and the Queen in this of the ſuppoſed Prince of *Wales*. For that if they might be ſufficient Proofs in their own cauſes they might be as well ſufficient Judges, beſides that if the Kings Affirmation ſhould be allow'd

allow'd by the Law of the Land, ſufficient to make a Prince of *Wales* without ſuch a number of Competent witneſſes as by the Law are requir'd, it would be an overturning of the Conſtitutions of the *Engliſh* Monarchy, eſpecially in Matters of Fact by which an injury may be done to another. In like manner neither can the King by the Rules and regulations of the Law, at his will and pleaſure alter the Succeſſion of the Crown of *England*, or ſo order it that the Crown ſhall not deſcend to the next in Blood. So that if the Kings Sole Affirmation of this Suppoſitious Princes Blood, what any farther Proof, were ſufficient to bind the belief of the Nation, his bare Affirmation would then actually extend to put by and fruſtrate the ſucceſſion of the next Heir, and ſubmit it to the pleaſure of the King. But the next Lawful Succeſſour is Heir to the Kindom by vertue of the Law it ſelf, and cannot be defeated of his Right of ſucceſſion by any Act of the Preceding Prince, and for the King to plead that theſe things came not into his mind or that he was ignorant of them, could be no ſatisfaction to the Kingdom in ſuch a caſe as this, where the Laws and Cuſtoms of *England*, were poſitive and requir'd clear and Demonſtrable Proofs ſuch as have been already mention'd of the Birth of the ſuppoſed Prince.

But there were other perſonal Circumſtances to prove the Queens not being with Child, as being the particular Symptoms, that always accompany pregnant Women. For it was diſcovered upon very good aſſurances that ſhe never had the moſt uſual, the moſt natural and common Symptoms of Conception: Her Menſtruum's continu'd their natural Courſe and Periods without any ſtop at the uſual times, and that all the while ſhe pretended to be with Child: or did ſhe conceal the having her Terms upon the Road to the *Bath*, nay that ſhe had them ſtill for ſome days after the King took his leave of her in that place. Nor was it poſſible for her afterwards, not withſtanding all the Arts and Induſtry ſhe made uſe of, to prevent them from appearing in the Seaſons of Nature: in regard thoſe Secrets muſt be known to more then could be made privy to the Contrivance.

Now for want of this ſame uſual Symptom of the ſtopping of her Monthly Evacuations, the Queen could have no fix'd time from whence to begin her reckning, and therefore the King to help

help her out, declar'd in Council that his Wife and He had thought it Convenient to make her conception Public, from the time that the offering was made to the Image of the *Loretto* Lady, when the King returned to the Queen at the *Bath*.

But this fell out afterwards very untowardly, becauſe it was impoſſible to bring together, the time of her conception and that of her pretended being deliver'd, ſo well, as to compleat the full and natural time of nine Months. So that the Women crying out, in deriſion upon the Kings boaſting what a ſtrong, lively, chopping Child he had got, that ſuch a Child at Eight Months was as great a Miracle, as her Conception upon her Preſent to the Lady of *Loretto*, the Confederates fearing the ſpreading of ſuch a report, might endanger the diſcovery of the Impoſtor, perſwaded the Queen to give it out that ſhe had miſtaken her reckning, as it was a common thing for Women to do.

But they forgot that the Queen had ſtood to her firſt reckning ſeveral Weeks after ſhe pretended to have been deliver'd; that it was well known that ſhe had her Evacuation's as ſhe went to the *Bath*, and four days after the Kings departure, which was a certain Sign ſhe had not then conceiv'd; or if ſhe had then conceiv'd, then it could be no Failure in her reckning, and ſhe did ill to Bath, for fear of deſtroying the Fruit of her Womb.

Then again, in other Women, after four Months being gone, there will be ſeen a Viſible ſwelling and Increaſe of the Breaſts, together with a fair appearance of Milk: but all theſe Symptoms were alſo wanting in the Queen, nor did ever any Lady which was proper to be a witneſs ever ſee a drop of Milk in her Breaſts, which were ſtill the ſame to the Eyes of all that view'd them, without any alteration of Bulk or Proportion.

Neither was any proper witneſs of Quality and experience ever admitted during the whole time of her pregnancy, to touch the Queen's Belly, that they might be able to give a Teſtimony concerning the Motion and ſtirring of the Child in the Womb. Which it behov'd the Queen to have ſhewn, eſpecially to the Proteſtant Ladies of her Bed-Chamber, who were not a little doubtful of her being with Child, as well as the Perſon who was then her Phyſitian.

Neither

Neither was there any diſtenſion of the parts of the Body that ſurround and encompaſs the Womb, which always enlarge and extend themſelves more eſpecially during the four laſt Months, to make room for the Child in the Womb as it grows on to perfection; ſeveral Matrons of great Experience attended on purpoſe to make an exact Obſervation of the riſing of the Queens Belly, but none of them could perceive the leaſt appearance of the growth of any Child in her Belly; which was all the time of her Pregnancy of the ſame Proportion, as at other times; only when ſhe was dreſs'd, her Belly was ſo order'd, as to ſeem to riſe up before like a Woman with Child: but they that view'd her behind as ſhe walk'd, could perceive no ſign of a big-belly'd Woman; which Obſervation was alſo made but a little before her pretended Lying in. To which may be added that in all the four laſt Months, when the Bellys of big-belly'd Women riſe moſt remarkably, the Queen was always obſerv'd, contrary to her uſual method, when ſhe went to ſhift her ſelf, to retire into ſome private with-drawing Room, where none were permitted to come to her but her *Italians* that were privy to the Secret. So that from the very time of her Fictitious Conception to the time of her pretended Delivery, there was not any thing in the Behaviour and Carriage of the Queen, which gave the leaſt appearance of Reality and Sincerity; but what on the other ſide very plainly diſcover'd Fraudulent Contrivance and Deſign.

While ſhe was preparing for her intended Delivery, there was no Notice given by the Queen, either to Her Royal Highneſs or to any other next in Expectancy of the Succeſſion, when ſhe thought her reckning was out or expected to be deliver'd, to the end that proper Perſons might have attended to have prevented all Suſpitions, which Law Juſtice and Common Prudence altogether requir'd. On the other ſide Inſtruments were made uſe of to Conceal both the Time and the Place of her pretended Delivery; and ſuch an Odd time of her Conception was given out, that it was impoſſible for the Friends of her Royal Highneſs to make any true judgment when the Farce was to be Acted.

As for the Place it was ſo variouſly given out, ſometimes *Windſor*, then *Hampton* Court, and then again *Richmond*, ſo that it was impoſſible for the Proteſtant Ladies and Friends of the Heir Apparent, to know where to be in a readineſs to attend. And for fear the Princeſs of *Denmark* ſhould be a Vigilant Obſerver as well for her own, as her-

her Sister's sake, that she might not be present at the time of her Delivery, the Plot was so laid, tho she stood more in need of Astringents at that time, that for the preservation of her Health she should be advis'd to go to the Bath for the benefit of the Loosning Waters, on purpose to keep her at a sufficient distance till the Scene was over.

But when Notice was given that the Counterfeit was almost ready, the Queen was in such a Hurry, above three weeks before her time was expected, that not above two days before her pretended Delivery she was in post hast to lye in at St. *James's*, where if things could not be got ready, so soon as was requisite, she declar'd she would lye upon the Floor. Which words being utter'd with so much Passion on the *Fryday*, that she would lye in at St. *James's* on *Saturday* Night, the most Vigilant Observers could not find there was then the least appearance, that the juggle was then to be carry'd on upon *Sunday*, or that then the pretended Birth of the long lookt for Counterfeit Prince was to be: in regard there was not the least shew of those fore running Pains that usually preceed the Travels of Child-bearing Women; besides that she sate up late that *Saturday* Night at Cards, without so much as the least pain or trouble; or any so much as thought of in the Night, till about nine or ten of the Clock in the Morning when all the Protestant Ladies were at their Devotions, and then the Princely Babe being ready for a second Birth, Mrs. *Wicks*, Mrs. *Labady*, and the beloved Mrs. *Tourain* did the Feat, and the Knack was over before Church was done.

Now that the Room was prepar'd, and made fit for the purpose, was apparent by the Private Door in the space between the Bed and the Wall, through which it might be an easie thing, to bring a Child and conveigh it privately into the Bed; and yet the Parties never be seen by any, that attended in the Room tho standing at the Beds-feet: and through that door it was easie for the Midwife, Mrs. *Labady*, and Mrs. *Touraine* to carry in and out what they pleas'd themselves.

Had not there been a necessity for that door, it ought by Common Reason and Prudence to have been either seal'd, or nayl'd up, to avoid Suspition of Imposture: but that door was so requisite for the Management of the Poppet Play, that the whole Contrivance was carry'd on through that door; which was a thing that was well known by the Lords of the Council, that were call'd in, not so much to see, as to be seen, to the end their Names might afterwards be made use of

to

to delude the people. And then again, ſo far was the Queen, from dreading, at all the bitter Pains, and hazards of Child-bearing, that ſhe made none of thoſe Proviſions uſual in ſuch Caſes; not ſo much as the Midwives Stool or Chair, which is uſually ſent before for the eaſe and benefit of Perſons of the Queens Quality: nor any order given for the Colledge of Phyſitians to attend; as if ſhe had certainly known, as well as ſhe did, that neither ſhe nor the Child ſhould ſtand in need of their Aſſiſtance. Only when all things were ready prepar'd in the inner Chamber, as the Infant it ſelf and the after Birth, and whatever elſe was thought neceſſary, to be ſhewn after the Child was born, then the Queen being put to Bed, with the Curtains cloſe drawn round about her, pretended to fall into her Counterfeit Labour, at what time the Child with the after Birth, were brought through the door between the Wall and the Queen's Bed, and put between the Sheets by the Midwife, and the two other forementionꝰd Confederates; who when they had playꝰd the firſt Part, were no leſs ſeemingly Induſtrious and buſie about the Queen's Perſon; which was the ſecond Part of the Act. But there was a neceſſity for them to make as much haſt as they could, even beyond a reaſonable Imagination, for fear the Infant, to whom they had given ſomething to make it ſleep, ſhould either wake and cry out of ſeaſon, or elſe be ſmotherꝰd between the Sheets by reaſon of the cloſeneſs of the Bed; ſo that the Queen had the eaſieſt Labour in the World, and ſuch a one as might well entitle it to the Epithite of Pretended. For all this while the Queen was altogether without any ſign of thoſe real afflictions and intermitting Pains of Women in Labour; no ſigns of the Childs Eruption; no alteration of the Queen's Body by the weakning of Female Travel. But all was done in a Trice, and then the Midwife having deliverꝰd ſomething cloſe covered into Mrs. *Labady*'s Hands, and both together went through the door between the Wall and the Bed into the Chamber adjoyning, and that in ſo much haſt, that the Midwife her ſelf made a plain diſcovery of the Fraud, by leaving the Queen at thoſe very moments, when had the Delivery been real, the uſual diſtreſſes and dangers of Women in Labour moſt requirꝰd her Aſſiſtance. And thus was this Counterfeit Prince brought forth in the dark from under the Bed Cloaths, the Curtains being drawn, and none that were in the Chamber permitted to ſee what was done about the Woman that was pretended to be brought to Bed. And as for the Lords of the Council,

the King kept them at the feet of the Bed which were close secur'd from the Observation of sight, so that they could neither see or hear any thing, which could make them capable of being Witnesses, of the Birth of a Child. And there after they had waited a long time, the King left them and went into the withdrawing Room where Mrs. *Labady* and the rest of the Accomplices were with the Counterfeit Prince; from whence he sent word to the Lords that in regard a Prince was so happily come into the World; there was no farther need of their Attendance, so that the greatest number of them departed.

Yet after all this Noise of a Delivery, all the Curious Observation that could be made, could never discover any signs that the Queen had been newly brought to Bed. No weaknesses, no Fevers, the usual Concomitants of Women bringing forth at the untimely Season of eight Months, as the Queen acknowledg'd her Labour to be. And tho the Queen was reported to have great plenty of Milk before her pretended Delivery, yet what became of it no body could tell. For neither were her Breasts ever drawn, nor any Medicaments apply'd to repel, or dry up the Milk, nor did she fain to take care of her Breasts, or seem in the least to fear the danger of such a pretended Redundancy. Nor was it ever heard of, that she ever put her self to the trouble of those usual Purgations; which are the Consequences of Child-bearing.

So that the best Construction that can be made of this Contrivance is only this that the Blind and Bigotted Zeal of the Papists, and their Popish Councels to establish a Popish Succession in this Kingdom made them violate all the Laws of Honour, Honesty, Justice and Common Morality.

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AN

# AN ACCOUNT OF THE MURDER OF THE Earl of Essex.

MUrder was the first abominable and crying sin, which after the fall of Man, and his Expulsion out of *Paradise*, Man committed in the Infancy of the World. And it would be needless to repeat a thing which is so universally known to all the Earth, how loudly this unnatural and hainous Crime cryes for vengeance in the Ears both of God and Men. No sin more severely prosecuted by the Punishments of Heaven, nor more vigorously restrain'd by the Law of Nations. Nothing so much provokes the wrath of God as the Pollutions of Blood: And nothing calls with that vehement importunity for condign Punishment of the Malefactors, as Perfidious and Inglorious Assassination. The Soveraignty neither of *David* nor of *Ahab* could protect them from the pursuit of Divine Justice. For it is the same thing whether a Man be the Actor himself, or the Suborner and Rewarder of the Murderers. And the Crime is so much the more fowl and detestable in them, who commit the Fact under the Protection of Authority, and High command, by how much it is a greater duty incumbent upon such to defend and preserve the Lives of those who are liable to be oppress'd. For let the person who believes himself injur'd by another be never so highly advanc'd in Grandeur and Dignity, it is not for him to seek

Revenge

Revenge, without the Legal Sentence and Determination of the Law. Not that the bare Aſſeveration, however of an Atturney General in calling the Impeachment and commitment of the Earl of *Eſſex*, *a Conviction for High Treaſon*, could be taken for a Solemn Sentence: ſince the words of his Lips could be no Warrant for others to proceed to ſuch a Bloody Execution.

On the other ſide, though every Murder be a crime of a moſt heinous Nature, yet ſome Murders may admit a higher Aggravation then others, from the Circumſtances that attend them.

In the firſt place the worth and dignity of the Perſon whoſe Life is unjuſtly taken from him, his High Station in the Kingdom, and his Abilities of Wiſdom, Power and Intereſt to be more advantageous to the Nation then another of his degree; by whoſe untimely loſs the whole Realm is rob'd of thoſe benefits, which it might have receiv'd from the Vertue and Endowments of ſo great a perſon.

Another Aggravation of the Murder was this, that it was done by thoſe whom the Earl had ſerv'd with all the Zeal and Integrity, that could be expected upon all occaſions; beſides that he was a Perſon whoſe Father had laid down his Blood and impair'd his Fortunes by venturing in the Kings Quarrel during the late Civil Wars. Another Aggravation was, that the Murther was committed not only in the Kings Priſon, where the Law and the Government protect the Priſoner till conviction, but alſo in one of the Kings Royal Palaces; where the King himſelf might have been thought a ſufficient Gage for the ſafety of the Perſon that lay under his Roof, which was not only to deprive the King of one of his moſt able and faithful Miniſters, but mortally to wound the Reputation of the King himſelf.

True it is, that the Authors and contrivers of the Murder made it their buſineſs, the better to conceal and throw off the Imputation of the Crime from themſelves, to impoſe upon the World, and make the People believe, that the Earl of *Eſſex* was a *Felo de ſe*, and had layd violent hands upon himſelf; not conſidering that all perſons and thoſe in great numbers of rank and judgment who were acquainted with his moſt truly Vertuous and Religious, a well as Noble and Generous Qualities and Principles, his Sedateneſs of temper, his ſteady, ſtrong and well poyſed Reaſon, together with his accompliſhments of Grace and Education, knew them to be ſo great and tranſcendently Eminent as not to ſuffer him to fall under the ſtain of

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ſuch a horrid Crime, ſo contrary to the Conſtitution of his Nature, and the Moral habits of his mind. As he was a True Chriſtian, his Religion would not ſuffer him to admit a thought that might encourage a Fact ſo Unchriſtian like; and as he was a Gentleman ſo Nobly Accompliſh'd, he could not condeſcend to ſo baſe and ſordid an Action to the Eternal ſtain of his Memory.

The ſame Perſons alſo to gain a belief of the Calumny among the multitude, gave it out, that his Lordſhip was wont in his common diſcourſe to juſtify Self-Homicide, rather then be a Spectacle of Capital Puniſhment to the gazing multitude. A thing ſo improbable, that nothing can be thought more unlikely from a Perſon of his Piety, Wiſdom and reſerv'dneſs, and which all Perſons frequent in converſe with him were ſo far from affirming to be Truth; that on the contrary they ſtill Solemnly proteſted his always ſpeaking in abhorrency of the Fact, as of a moſt deſperate and Bloody Sin, which was alſo no leſs ſacredly atteſted by his own Lady, upon application made to her to know the Truth or Falſhood of the Story. And then for his ſpeaking with reſpect of the Duke of *Northumberland*, who ſhot himſelf in the Tower, which was another thing laid to his charge, to Improve the Credit of the Report, it was no more then what Civility and Education requir'd, in reſpect to his Lady, Grand Daughter to the Duke, and to the memory of the Duke himſelf, otherwiſe a Perſon of great worth and Noble Endowments. Nor was the Earl under the ſame Circumſtances as the Duke was, who lay Condemn'd for High Treaſon, whereas the *Earl* knew himſelf Innocent of the Matter laid to his Charge, beſides that there was but one witneſs that could pretend to have any knowledge of him.

More then all this, the very day before the Murther, his Lordſhip had ſent for his own Plate to the Tower for the dreſſing and ſerving up his Meat, becauſe he began to be diſtruſtful of the Officers and Cooks of the Priſon, and had laid in a conſiderable quantity of Wines for his own Table, ſufficient to ſerve him till he thought he might be brought to his Tryal: which clearly argu'd he was more affraid of ſome Violence, and Illegal Means to be uſed by others for his Deſtruction, then jealous of any Deſpair in himſelf.

In the next place we are to conſider, to what ends the Violent death of this unfortunate Earl were improved to, and what deſigns the Judges and other Miniſters of the Law made it their buſineſs to ſerve by it; and then it will be found that after ſeveral contrivances to

involve

involve the Protestants in Sham-plots against the Person of the King and the Establish'd Government, they had at last found out a pretence of a Conspiracy of that Nature against the Earl of *Essex*, and had furnished themselves with some witness, who undertook the swearing of the best and greatest Men of the Kingdom into a Conspiracy for levying a War to the Destruction of the King. But understanding well that their witnesses were of no Reputation to make out the charge against the Chief Patriots of our Laws and Religion, they resolved to Murder the Earl of *Essex*, then close committed under a pretence of the same Conspiracy, and to give it out that he had made away himself, for shame and horror of being concern'd in so Treasonable a design. To this end did the Attorney General and the Lord Chief Justice with all their Eloquence and Artifice Endeavour to make their Accusation useful and subservient. Therefore says the Attorney General. *The* Lord of Essex *being committed to the Tower for the Plot, and killing himself, was more then a thousand Witnesses to open the Eyes of the People, and confirm the belief of the Conspiracy.* Which *Jefferies* the Chief Justice seconding, *There was in it* Digitus Dei, says he, *and enough to satisfie all the World of the Truth of the Conspiracy, That the Earl of Essex being Conscious of the great Guilt he had contracted in being concerned in it, did rather then abide his Tryal, and to avoyd the Methods of Justice in his own particular case, destroy himself.*

This Improvement of the Murder of this noble Peer, gives no small Ground to suspect who were the contrivers of his death, and upon design they did first assassinate, and then endeavour to throw the Infamy and guilt of it upon himself.

But then the Timing of the Murder was a farther Demonstration, where the Guilt of it ought to be charged, and for the promotion of what Service it was first contrived. For no sooner was the Lord *Russel* brought upon a Tryal for his Life under a pretence of the same Conspiracy for which the Earl stood committed, but the Earl was Assassinated in the Tower, and then the news forthwith dispatched away to the *Old-Bayley*, that the Earl had Murdered himself, on purpose to amuse and prepossess the Jury, and induce them to convict the other most Virtuous, Noble and Innocent Person. Nor were the Kings Council wanting to lay hold on the Tidings, with all their Art and Malice to harangue and plead the Lord *Russel* out of his Life. And therefore to make the deeper Impression in the minds of the Jury already sufficiently prejudiced, and grosly partial, the Atturney

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General bawl'd out, *That the Lord Ruſſel was one of the Council for carrying on the Plot with the* Earl of Eſſex, *who had that Morning prevented the hand of Juſtice upon himſelf.* And *Jefferies*, Chief Juſtice, when he came to ſum up the Evidence and determine the Jury to find it againſt the Priſoner, averr'd. *That there was nothing could be ſaid in Favour of the Lord* Ruſſel's *Innocency, as to what he was accuſed of, but what might be more ſtrongly alleadged in behalf of the Earl of Eſſex, who nevertheleſs from a Conſciouſneſs of being Guilty of that deſperate Conſpiracy, had brought himſelf to an untimely end, to avoid the Methods of publie Juſtice.*

Nay, ſo apparent it was to all impartial perſons then preſent at the Tryal, that the Murder of the Earl of *Eſſex* was perpetrated by others, and timed to that Seaſon, on purpoſe to influence the Jury, to Sacrifice the Lord *Ruſſel* to the Rage of the Court, that a Noble Lord, who had been always in the Intereſts of White-Hall, and then very Zealous in the Proſecution of thoſe accus'd for the Plot, being then upon the Bench, and hearing of the Earls death, and who were walking in the Tower when it fatally happened, and obſerving how the Kings Council acted their parts upon the News of it, roſe up in a great amazement from the Bench, and preſſing out of the Court, with his Hat pull'd over his Eyes, could not forbear ſaying, that he now ſaw the Bottom of the buſineſs. And indeed ſuch was the Influence which the Earls pretended Murther of himſelf for being concern'd in the Conſpiracy with the Lord *Ruſſel*, that ſeveral of the Jury acknowledg'd, that the Report as it was managed by the Kings Council, ſway'd more with them for his Conviction, then all the reſt of the Evidence, though had the Earl Entertain'd any preceding thoughts to Murder himſelf, and time it to that unhappy Juncture, he would never have given orders to his Steward to take the Lord *Ruſſels* Tryal in ſhort hand, that he might afterwards make uſe of it upon occaſion. Beſides that there was a Freind-ſhip too entire between him and the Lord *Ruſſel* to Calculate the Murdering of himſelf to ſuch a Seaſon, on purpoſe to facilitate the deſtruction of his friend.

The next thing to be laid open is the Picque and Motive upon which this Murder was committed, and the grounds of that implacable Malice which ſome Men bare againſt the Earl. For it was well known to thoſe Adverſaries of his, that he was one that ſtood up zealouſly for the Laws and Liberties of the Kingdom, and no leſs a couragious defender of the Proteſtant Religion.

He was known to understand more of the Extent and Nature of the Popish Conipiracy; who were concern'd in it, and to what degree, then most Persons in the Kingdom, as well by reason of his public station in *Ireland*, as also for that he had been long a Member of the Kings Privy Council in *England*, and moreover because he had been likewise a Member of all those Private Committees, who had the inspections of Papers, and Examination of persons concern'd in the horrid Plot. Therefore because he scorn'd to Sacrifice his Honor and his Conscience to a compliance with the Conspirators, and always oppos'd them in their Attempts for the Introduction of Popery and Arbitrary Power they sought all ways and means to destroy him. Of which the Earl was not insensible, and would therefore sometimes say to his intimate friends, That as the generality of the Papists and particularly such of them as made the greatest Figure at the Court, had a dread of him by reason of the Detections he was able to make of their horrid Machinations; so was he not without good cause of fears and suspitions, that they would endeavour his Destruction in order to prevent it.

Nor is it the least Circumstance that proves that the Earl was Assassinated by others, and not Murdered by himself, that several Reports of his Death, and the manner of it were spread abroad before the Fact was commited. Thus it was an Evidence to the Parliament that the City was burnt by the Papists, because the News of it was not only reported in several Parts of the Kingdom, but sent from beyond Sea, as the discourse of the Jesuits with their Privadoes and Favorites: And in like manner it was urged as a proof that Sir *Edmund Berry Godfery* was Assassinated by the Papists, and allow'd at the Lord *Staffords* Tryal, because his Death was related many Miles off in the Country, before it was well known in *London*. Thus a Lady of Quality relates, that being in company the day before the death of the Earl of *Essex*, upon a Discourse arising about the Murder of Sir *Edmund Berry Godfrey*, a Gentleman took the freedom to say, *That there would appear to Morrow another* Sir *Edmund Berry Godfrey*: Which though the Lady could not comprehend at present, yet hearing the next day the Report that the Lord of *Essex* had cut his own Throat, she easily unriddled the Mystery she had heard the Night before; and concluded the *Earl* to have come to an untimely end by Treachery. And

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one Mrs. *Mewx* a Gentlewoman that lives in *London*, was ready to ſwear at Mr. *Braddons* Tryal, That her Daughter told her, as they were Travelling both together into *Berkſhire*, the day before the Earl of *Eſſex's* Death, that one of the Lords committed for the late Plot, had cut his Throat in the *Tower*. But becauſe her Daughter being near her time could not be at the Tryal, the Chief Juſtice would not ſuffer the Mother, though Sworn to be Examin'd, becauſe ſhe could not depoſe on her own knowledg, though Mr. *Wallop* reply'd, *it was Evidence that there was ſuch a Talk preceding* the death of the Earl: and by conſequence, it may be added, that he did not Murder himſelf. Mr. *Fielder* alſo of *Andover* Swore, that it was talk.d in that Town upon the 11th and 12th of *July*, that the Earl had cut his Throat in the Tower, whereas the Fact was not done till the 13th, and could not get to *Andover* by the Poſt till the 14th. At what time becauſe the Confirmation came not, it was look'd on as a Report, but being confirm'd the next by certain Clothiers ſetting out of *London* the ſame day, preſently after the Murder was done, they could not be amaz'd at a Report ſo current among them, ſo long before the Fact was committed. But the Chief Juſtice *Jefferies* run down all this, *As a contrivance to deceive the Kings Subjects, and ſet us together by the Ears: ſtyling it ſtuff rak'd out of the Dunghills, and pick'd up on purpoſe to kindle a Fire, and ſet us all in a Flame.* One *Jeremy Burgeſs* alſo ſwears, that he heard the ſame Report at *Frome* Ninty Miles from *London*, the ſame day the Earl was kill'd: and one *Lewis* living at *Marlborough* ſwore, that he was told upon the Road, between *Marlborough* and *Andover*, by a Stranger, that the Earl of *Eſſex* had cut his Throat in the *Tower*, which notwithſtanding all the ſcorn and contempt with which the Chief Juſtice endeavour'd to Ridicule what they depos'd, is ſufficient proof to all indifferent Men that the Report was ſpread abroad preceding to the Earl's Death.

From which laſt circumſtance of the Report of the Earls cutting his Throat, being ſpread by ſo many Perſons in various Parts of the Kingdom, ſo long before his Death, theſe Inferences ariſe. Firſt, that it was not improbable but that the Contrivers of the Earls death might have reſolved upon the Execution of the Fact ſooner, but that the reaſon of deferring it was to adjuſt it to the Seaſon of the Lord *Ruſſels* Tryal, that the

Murder of the one might facilitate the death of the other: So that they who were acquainted with the Resolution first taken, out of a forwardness to oblige their friends had given them too hasty Intelligence of the thing as already done, before it was committed, by reason of the latter Resolution. The second Inference is, that though the Report was vented by several persons, yet they all agreed in the way and manner of it, that is to say, cutting his Throat, which had been impossible to conceive, unless such an Agreement in the manner of his death, had originally proceeded from the Contrivers and Determiners as well of the Murder it self, as of the way how it should be perpetrated. The last thing to be hence observed that these Reports could never be the fictitious Forgeries of Persons Romantickly dispos'd; seeing it was impossible that so many People at such distances one from another, and who never had any correspondence together, could never so exactly agree and combine together to impose upon the World, and abuse the Faith of Mankind. Nor is it a thing rational to imagin that it could be the Interest of Country Gentlewomen and Tradesmen to spread abroad a Story of the Lord of *Essex's* cutting his Throat before it was done.

After all this, there could not be a greater confirmation that the Earl of *Essex* was no *Felo de se*, but that he was treacherously Murdered by others, and that the Authors of the Assassination, were Persons of great Interest and Power at Court, then the Letters and Proposals which were sent to some great Lords near the King, that if his Majesty would but grant a Pardon to two or three Men, that should be named when the Favour was granted, the whole Mystery of the Contrivance should be discover'd, and the Contrivers and Actors be particularly detected. Which Proposals if they were neglected, it may justly be attributed to this, that the Apprehensions of those great Persons of bringing Ruin upon their own heads, frighten'd them from the delivery of those Proposals to the King. More especially understanding what the *D.* of *Y.* had said in reference to Mr. *Braddon*, *That he was ravelling into such a Business, but that he was resolved to ruin him if all the Law of* England *would do it.*

Another Letter was address'd to the Countess of *E.* and to the end it might be convey'd to her Ladyship, was directed to be left with one Mr. *C.* a Bookseller in the *New Exchange*; The

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Contents of which were, *That if her Honor could prevail with the King for a Pardon, to one that would discover how the Earl came by his death; or obtain a Proclamation of his Majesty, assuring forgiveness to any one who should come in and detect by whom and after what manner the Earl was Murdered, that upon either of these Securities, the way of the Earl of* Essex's *Assassination should be reveal'd and layd open with all the Circumstances.* This Letter was brought to Mr. *Cademan* by a Young Woman, and left with him unseal'd. Who after he had perus'd it, and considered of the Consequence of it, carried it to one Mr. *H.* a Justice of the Peace in *Covent-Garden*, who is said by credible information to have carry'd it to one of the Secretaries of State. The Letter was conceiv'd to have been written by *Bomeny* himself, as being under some remorse in reference to the Earl's death, in regard that some of *Bomeny's* Hand-writing being produc'd to Mr. *C.* it appear'd to the best of his remembrance and judgment to be the same as he had formerly seen it. However it was plain that it was written by one who was desirous to be known, in regard the Letter was sent open and by one who was able to have told from whence she had it. But nothing more amaz'd Rational People, than that notwithstanding the several Reports and universal Suspitions of the Earls being Murdered in the *Tower*, there was not the least Syllable publish'd to encourage an Inquisition after his Blood, nor any discovery of the Contrivers and Perpetrators of the Murder: whereas there had been a Promise of 500 l. to any that should discover the Murder of Sr. *Edmund Berry Godfrey*, a Person of far less Merit and Figure than the Earl of *Essex*; which seemed to arise from a fear that the King was in, of those that were accessary to it. Nevertheless the Matter could not be so stifled at that time, but that the load of the Charge was privately lay'd upon the Earl of *S.* the Earl of *F.* and one more Person greater then either of them, the Truth of which Time and the Parliament will bring o Light.

On the other side, as no Encouragement was ever offer'd for the Detection of the Murther, so all the means imaginable were used to deter Men from enquiring into the Matter. The Judges branded the Medling in it a Reflection upon the King, an Affront to the Government, and a design to embroil the Nation in trouble. The Attorney General stigmatiz'd the report and belief of the Earl's being Murthered, as *The throwing*

*that*

*that ill thing upon the Government, which he had committed upon himself.* The Chief Juſtice *Jefferies* ſtyl'd it a *Libelling of the Government, and to have been forg'd in order to beget heart-burnings and jealouſies in the Kings Subjects againſt the Government, and to raiſe Sedition.* Though in the Caſe of Sir *Thomas Overbury*, it was not then thought any diſhonor to the Government, to have the Death of that Gentleman reinquir'd into, and to have it prov'd quite contrary to the Coroners Iuquiſition, that inſtead of dying a natural Death, he was treacherouſly Murdered in the *Tower*; rather it was thought a great Vindication of the Honor of the Goverment, to have ſeveral of the Accomplices executed, and the Earl of *Somerſet* and his Counteſs convicted and condemn'd as Authors of the Fact.

Great care was alſo taken to frighten and menace thoſe who were thought any way conſcious of the manner of the Earl's Death, or capable to diſcover any thing that might give any Light into the Matter. And therefore underſtanding that the Soldiers who were upon Duty that Morning had not only taken notice of ſeveral Perſons, but made obſervations of ſeveral Circumſtances, from whence the Murder might be inferred, and that ſome of them had ſpoken too laviſhly of it abroad as well as among themſelves, the ſaid Soldiers were threatned under ſevere Penalties to hold their Tongues for the future, as ſeveral are ready to teſtifie when occaſion ſerves.

But far more ſevere were the evil Treatments and Severities uſed toward Mr. *Braddon*, for endeavouring to deliver the Throne and Kingdom from the Guilt of Innocent Blood, by gathering up ſuch Informations as might ſerve for the Detection of the Murder. His being forced to give in 2000 *l.* Bail at the Council Board, to anſwer an Inditement of Subornation, for bringing a Child to the Earl of *S.* to teſtifie what he ſaw concerning a Razor thrown out of the Earl of *Eſſex*'s Window, before the Noiſe of the Murder. His being clapt up in *Fiſherton* Goal near *Salisbury*, upon Information that he was going to *Marlborough* to inquire of the Report that the Earl had cut his Throat, divulged in that Town upon the very Day the Fact was committed. His being denied by the Lord Keeper, after he had been at the Charges of a *Habeas Corpus* to bring him to Town, the Benefit of the Statute, unleſs he would give 12000 *l.*

Bail,

Bail, which neither his Qyality would enable him, nor his Prudence permit him to give, considering the Nature of his Offence. His being confined by Order of the Lord Chief Justice, in the Prison of the Kings Bench, after he had given ten thousand pounds for his true Imprisonment. All which Hardships and Oppressions of an honest and worthy Gentleman, for enquiring into the Truth of certain Reports, which if admitted, had given great Light to the Discovery of the Fact, and the Authors of it, clearly evince that the Earl of *Essex* was murthered by others, and not by himself.

But the next Scene that was opened, was, after all these Sufferings, the bringing him to a Tryal, for endeavouring to cast Aspersions upon the Government, and defame the King. Where by way of Introduction, the first thing remarkable was, that the Lord Chief Justice was not only that Morning for some time at *White-Hall*, before he went to *Westminster*, but was also attended by the Earl of *F.* at the Lighting out of his Coach in *Westminster*, and discoursed with, not only as he went through the Hall, but in a Corner near the Court, before he ascended to take his Place. Which gave many ground to suspect, that the Chief Justice's Business at *White-Hall*, was to take such Instructions as he was to follow, for the Management of his Business, and that the Earl of *F*'s discoursing him, was to imprint in him a fresh Sence of the Business that was to be before him, and to make him sensible of the ill Consequences that would ensue to those that were concerned in the Conspiracy, as the Lord *F.* was suspected to be, if Mr. *Braddon* should be acquitted. Another thing, was the Gesture, Countenance, Heat, Passion and Air of the Judges, which shew'd them to be rather sworn Parties against the Prisoner at the Bar, than equal Judges between the King and the Defendant, considering the malicious and slanderous Language vented against the Prisoner himself, the interrupting, menacing and hectoring his Council, and the byassing and imposing upon his Jury. And yet the very Indictment it self, *Of maliciously endeavouring and conspiring to defame the Government*; or as Justice *W.* termed it, *Of charging the King with taking away an innocent Man's Blood, and of murthering an Innocent Man*: And as it was laid in the Indictment, *Of procuring and suborning false Witnesses, to prove that the Earl of* Essex *was not a Felo of himself, but was killed and murthered by unknown*

*unknown*, was ſufficient to have juſtified Mr. *Braddons* Innocency from the Crime of which he was accuſed. For granting that what was ſworn concerning the bloody Razor, and all that was depoſed concerning the preceding Reports in the City and Country, had been falſe: Yet was it evident that Mr. *Braddon* was not the Forger of thoſe things; ſo that in their nature they were of that weight and importance, that any honeſt and rational Man might have a good ground of ſuſpition.

Anſwerable to the Juſtice of his Tryal, was the Severity of his Fine of two thouſand pounds, which was more than all his viſible Eſtate, and conſequently contrary to the Law of the Land. But nothing more encreaſed the Suſpitions of thoſe that were jealous enough already, as the two ſucceeding private Murthers of two Men, whoſe Employment gave them the Opportunity to obſerve and know more than others did. The firſt was one *Meake* a Common Souldier, who ſtood Sentinel all that Morning near the Houſe where the Earl of *Eſſex* was confin'd. For order was taken, that the Sentinels who were upon Duty when the King and Duke came to the Tower, which was about ſix of the Clock in the Morning, ſhould not be relieved till their Departure, which was half an hour after nine. Which was done to prevent the Obſervations of as few as might be. This *Meake* had the Opportunity to obſerve all the Perſons that went that Morning to the Earl's Lodgings. This poor Fellow having obſerved many remarkable particulars, and abhorring what he had ſeen; had neither the reſervedneſs to conceal the knowledge of what he had ſeen, nor the Prudence to underſtand to whom he diſcovered it; ſo that his Tale was ſoon carried to St. *Jame's* as an important piece of Intelligence. Wherefore that he might tell no more Stories, nor riſe up as a Witneſs of whathe ſaw, he was privately murthered and thrown into the Tower-Ditch.

The next was one Mr. *Hawley*, a Warder in the Tower, and for Reputation and Eſtate, far more conſiderable than that *Hawley*, at whoſe Houſe the Earl was confined, and by conſequence, one who had a better Opportunity to underſtand the whole Myſtery of the Conſpiracy then the Sentinel had, as being a Perſon, without whoſe Privity, Conſent and Aſſiſtance, the black Deed could not have been committed. And therefore by how much he was the more capable than others to detect the whole Villany, and lay it open in all the ſeveral parts and

Branches

Branches of it; and by reaſon of his Reputation, more capable of gaining Belief in the World, by ſo much was he to be the more dreaded by the Conſpirators; eſpecially when they underſtood that *Hawley* had been talking thoſe things concerning the Earl of *Eſſex*'s Death, which it concerned them no leſs than their Lives and Honours to have conceal'd; which made them reſolve to haſten his Deſtruction, to prevent his farther telling of Tales. And therefore being informed that he was inquiring where he might lay out Money upon a Purchaſe, they employed one to tempt him out of Town, under pretence of ſhewing him a Parcel of Land that was to be ſold; and by that means, being perſwaded to take a Journey into the Country, he was ſo well ſet and dogg'd upon the Road, and the Ruffians executed their Orders with that Secrecy and Obedience, that it was a conſiderable while before he could be heard of, or his Body be found. And when at length, his Corps, after long enquiry, was diſcovered, there were all the Marks and Symptoms upon it, of a barbarous and bloody Aſſaſſination, though it could be never heard of that he had ever given occaſion to any other Perſons in the World, unleſs it were the Conſpirators againſt the Earl of *Eſſex*, to deal ſo inhumanly by him. Nor was his Wife unſenſible of the occaſion of his Death, when ſhe told ſome of her Friends, that ſhe dreaded the ill Conſequences of his ſo often diſcourſing of the Earl of *Eſſex*'s Murther.

On the other ſide, as ſome were oppreſſed and perſecuted, others deſtroyed, from whom the World might receive any Light concerning the Murther of this Noble Peer, ſo others, who were conſenting and aiding in the committing of the bloody Fact, were countenanced, protected and abetted by the chief Miniſters of State, and Officers of Juſtice. For it muſt be neceſſarily acknowledged, that if the Earl were aſſaſſinated by violent Hands, that *Bomeny*, who attended him in his Chamber, and was the only Servant that waited on him in the Tower, unleſs it were a Foot man, muſt be acquainted with it, and an Acceſſary to it. Of which, the Apprehenſions he was in, and the Trouble he expreſſed to one of the Counteſſes Gentlewomen, upon a Report that the Earls Body was to be taken up again, in order to a ſecond Examination, were no ſmall Arguments. Nor was the Counteſs her ſelf without a ſtrong Suſpition of this

ſame *French* Valet's being guilty of her Husbands Death, which was the reaſon that ſhe diſcharged him her Service, and diſmiſſed him out of the Family. After which, it leaſt of all became the Honour of the Court, unleſs there were a farther Myſtery in it than the World were aware of, to take him into Protection, and prefer him to Employment. For in the firſt place, the Lord Chief Juſtice, after he had been hectoring, interrupting, and daunting all the Witneſſes for the Defendant, not only aſſiſted and rectified *Bomeny* in his Depoſition, guiding him to ſay a Razor, when the Fellow had ſaid a Pen-knife, but gave him the Character of one, *whoſe Integrity and Fidelity to the Earl had been confirmed by ſix years Experience, and that he was not an Upſtart or wandring Fellow.* And this Eſteem which *Bomeny* had with ſome of the Grandees at Court, was farther confirmed by the Correſpondence which he had with the Secretary of State at that Time; ſo that when he lay conceal'd from others, he was ſtill ready to be ſpoken with by any that pretended to come to him from Sir *L. J.* After which, notwithſtanding the Ignominy and Suſpicion he lay under, he was admitted to ride in one of the Troops of the Regiment of Guards. As to the Wound it ſelf, certain it is, that the Coroners Inqueſt, in their Inquiſition made the 14th. of *July*, 1683. gave this Account upon their Oaths, *That the Earl of* Eſſex, *being the 13th. Day of* July *alone in his Chamber, did with a Razor, voluntarily and feloniouſly cut his Throat, giving himſelf one mortal Wound, from one Jugular to the other, and by the Aſpera Arteria and the Wind-pipe, to the Vertebres of the Neck, both the Jugulars being throughly divided; of which ſaid mortal Wound, the ſaid Earl of* Eſſex *inſtantly dy'd.* With which account, the Informations, upon Oath of *Sherwood* and *Andrews*, called to view the Body, agree, *viz.* That the Throat of the ſaid Earl, was cut from one Jugular to the other, through the Windpipe and Gullet into the Vertebres of the Neck, both Jugular Veins being alſo quite divided.

Upon all which, the Obſervations moſt authentickly made, are, firſt, That the Razor ſworn by *Bomeny* before the Inqueſt, to be the Inſtrument with which the Earl gave himſelf the Wound, was a ſmall *French* Razor, about four Inches and a half long at moſt, without any Spit or Tonge at the end of the Blade, as the Engliſh Razors have, ſo that by its make and extent, it could

could not be uſed but by holding it by the Blade, and that to hold it with a ſteadineſs requiſite to make ſuch a Wound, the Hand and Fingers could not graſp or faſten upon leſs then two Inches of it. In the next place that conſidering the Dimenſions of the Wound, which reached to the Vertebres of the Neck in depth, and in length from the Neck-bone behind the Left Jugular, to the Bone of the Neck beyond the Right, between Eight and Nine Inches long, as a Gentleman who ſaw the Wound before the Jury did, affirms; It was a thing which all Anatomiſts and Chyrurgious acknowleged and confirmed by ſubſtantial Reaſons, that no Man in the World could himſelf cut his own Throat in that manner. In regard that after the cutting the one Jugular, it is impoſſible there ſhould remain life and ſtrength ſufficient to carry forward the Wound to the dividing the other; ſince upon dividing the firſt Jugular, that all Life and Motion would have immediately ceaſed, ſo that there could have been no ſtrength left to draw forward the Inſtrument to the ſecond, ſo as to make a Diſſection. Neither was it poſſible for a Wound or Gaſh of ſuch a length and four Inches deep to be made by no more than wo Inches and a half of a ſmall Razor; the reſt being allowed to be lain hold on by the hand. And therefore a certain Gunner in the *Tower*, ſuppoſed to be not altogether a ſtranger to that Affair, pitched upon a more proper Inſtrument for the doing it, when about Nine of the Clock that Morning, he reported the Death of the Earl, in a place not far diſtant from thence, ſaying that the Earl had cut his Throat with a Caſe-knife, wherewith he had been carving a Pidgeon for his Breakfaſt.

After theſe Circumſtances followed the failing of the Witneſſes in the ſteady agreement of their Informations ſworn before the Coroner and his Inqueſt. For that whereas *Bomeny* ſwore, *That on the* 12th *of* July *in the Morning, before the Earl of* Eſſex *was up, he ſent the Footman home with a Note to the Steward, in which among other things he asked for a Penknife for his Lord, and that when the Footman was gone, a little after Eight of the Clock, my Lord ſent* Ruſſel *the Warder to the ſaid* Bomeny, *who came and asked him if the Penknife were come. To which* Bomeny *reply'd, No my Lord, but I ſhall have it by and by; and that thereupon my Lord bid him bring him one of his Razers, which he went and fetched and gave his Lordſhip,*

*who apply'd himself therewith to pair his Nails.* Russel, *Swears, That upon the* 13*th of* July *about Eight or Nine of the Clock in the Forenoon he was present when he heard the Earl of* Essex *call to his Man* Bomeny *for a Pen-knife to pair his Nails; and then for a Razor which* Bomeny *brought him; and that thereupon my Lord went up and down the Room scraping his Nails with the Razor.* So that while *Bomeny* deposes upon Oath, that the Earl called for the Razor, and had it delivered him upon the 12th of *July*, being *Thursday*, and the day before his Death, *Russel* Swears, that it was upon the 13th of *July*, being *Friday*, and the day that my Lord was kill'd, that he ask'd for the Razor, and had it deliver'd by his Man. Then again, whereas *Bomeny* Swore, *That* Russel *push'd the Closet door open where the Earl lay*; which implys a violence used to get in, *Russel* Swears, *That being called by* Bomeny, *he went to the Closet door and opened it, the Key being on the outside.* Thirdly, whereas *Bomeny* Swears, *that upon peeping through the Chink of the Closet-door he saw the Earl of* Essex *lying upon the Ground in the Closet, without mentioning my Lords Body, or any Part of it. Russel* Swears, *that* Bomney *upon peeping through the Chink of the Door, saw the Earl lying upon the Ground in the Closet,* without adding any thing of his having *seen Blood* or a part of the Razor. Then again, whereas *Bomeny* and *Russel* both Swear, *that the Closet-door where my Lord fell, was Locked when he came up to it, but that upon opening the Door, they found him lying all along upon the Closet floor. Peck*, the Servant who brought the Provisions to my Lord, just as *Bomeny* pretended to have found him dead, and who upon *Bomeny*'s meeting him upon the Stairs, ran immediately into the Chamber, affirm'd himself ready to depose, *That he saw the Earl's Body lying in the Closet with a great Part of his Legs without the Closet-door, and the print of a bloody Foot upon one of his Stockings.*

No less observable were the Circumstances of removing the Earls Body out of the Closet where it was found, and where it ought to have lain according to the Law, till the Coroners Jury had seen it: the unclothing, stripping and washing his Body, and the washing the Closet where it was found, and the Chamber where he lodg'd adjoyning to it, and the conveying away of the Earl's Cloaths, and denying the Jury a sight of them; which depriv'd the Jury of many Circumstances

ces that might have afforded them a clearer Light in the giving their Verdict.

True it is that one of the Jury having obſerv'd, that though they had been admitted to view the Body, yet they had not ſeen the Cloaths which the Earl wore when he was killed, but that they had been taken off and carried away, did thereupon ask to ſee the ſaid Cloaths. But the noiſe of that demand coming into the next Room where ſome Gentlemen were attending, the Coroner was ſent for, and ſeverely checkt for ſuffering ſuch Queſtions to be propoſed; who thereupon returning back to the Jury told them, they were called to ſit upon my Lords Body and not upon his Cloaths, and that it was ſufficient they had ſeen his Body and received an Accompt how it was found.

The laſt thing diſcourſed of, to confirm that the Earl of *Eſſex* was no *Felo de ſe*, was that a Bloody Razor was thrown out of his Chamber-window, before any noiſe of his death, or the leaſt Intimation that he was killed.

For that it was impoſſible that after he had cut his Throat himſelf, he ſhould himſelf throw it out, and therefore it muſt be thrown out by another. Now that a Bloody Razor was thrown out of the Earls Chamber Window the Morning that he was kill'd, was teſtify'd by a Young Lad between Thirteen and Fourteen Years of Age, who having heard as he was going to School, that the K. and the D. were in the Tower, diſpens'd with his School-duty, and made bold to go to the Tower to ſee them, and rambling there from one place to another all the Morning return'd home again about Ten of the Clock to his Mother, and told her, *that the Earl of Eſſex was kill'd, and that while he ſtood nere the Earls Lodgings, looking up toward his Chamber Window, he ſaw a hand caſt out a Bloody Razor, which as he was going to take up, there came a ſhort Maid or Woman, with a White Hood on her Head out of Captain Hawley's Houſe where the Earl lay, and took up the Razor, which ſhe immediatly carry'd into the Captains Houſe, and ran up Stairs, and that ſoon after he heard one cry out Murder.* All which the Boy frequently repeated and averr'd to his Father, Mother and Siſter, and to one Mrs. *Burt*, as well as to Mr. *Braddon*: tho at laſt by the Flatteries of ſome and the Menaces of others he was wrought upon to retract what he had ſaid. Nevertheleſs the ſoft Behaviour of the Court toward the Boy, and the rough Carryage of the Judges toward the reſt of *Braddons* Witneſſes ſtrangely poſſeſſed

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the minds of People, that the Lad was more in the right in his first Affirmation then in his ensuing Retraction; besides that the same thing was affirmed by others. For that one *Jane Lodeman* a Girl of about thirteen Years of Age, being in the Tower that Morning the Earl was kill'd and standing over against his Lodgings, came home and told both her Aunt and others that it was reported, the Earl of *Essex* had cut his Throat, and that she had seen a Hand cast out a Bloody Razer out of a Window where they said that my Lord Lodged. Upon which it was easily inferr'd that Children of their Innocent Years could not frame or invent such a story of themselves. The rather because it was known that *Meake* the Sentinel who was Murdered and thrown into the Tower-ditch, had declared to several Persons the very day that my Lord was said to have killed himself, *That just before the Earls death was publickly known, there was a Bloody Razer thrown out of his Chamber-Window, which was seen by some of the Souldiers as well as by others, and that whilst a little Boy who had seen the Razer thrown out, ran towards it to take it up, a short Maid or Woman that came out of the House where the Earl of Essex Lodg'd, was too quick for the Boy and snatched up the Razer, and having run in with it into a House, Murder was soon after cry'd out.* All which Affirmations agreeing in every particular, though the Persons were unknown to one another and never had communication together, rendered the matter the more Suspicious: more especially seeing all things carry'd on with such a High Hand in the Court against Mr. *Braddon*, for only endeavouring to discover the Truth.

Some other Passages also were observed in the Tower that Morning my Lord was said to have kill'd himself, no less remarkable then the preceding; but seperated from the rest, as relating rather to the suspected Contrivers and Actors, then the Testimonies. The first Observation of this Nature was, that the Gate at the lower end of those Apartments in the Tower where the Earl of *Essex* and the rest of the Gentlemen committed for the pretended Plot were Lodg'd and secured, and which always used to stand open from Morning to Evening, was all that Morning, kept shut till after the Earl of *Essex* was dead, only that it was once opened to let out the Lord *Russel* to his Tryal, but then immediately after he was gone, was lockt up again. Which as it could not escape the sight of the Persons who were then confin'd, so it gave that surprize to some of them, being a thing unusual before; that one Gentleman in particular called to his Warder, to understand the meaning

meaning of it, and received for Anſwer, that there was ſpecial Order given for it.

The Second Paſſage remarkable that Morning was, that the King and the Duke having been at the Lievtenant's Houſe, which is about the middle of the Lane or paſſage to the Mount where the Lord of *Eſſex*, and the reſt were Impriſoned, and having ſtood in a Balcony with ſome few Attending them, to ſee the Lord *Ruſſel* paſs by to his Tryal, the Duke ſoon after withdrew with ſeveral waiting upon him, and went down into the Paſſage aforeſaid, where the Gate was ſtill kept ſhut.

The laſt thing which fell under the Obſervation of ſeveral in the Tower, was, that the Duke having withdrawn from the King, there were ſeveral Perſons ſent away and diſmiſſed from his very ſide, toward the Earl of *Eſſex*'s Lodging, who never returned till the Earls death, at what time they return'd and gave an Accompt of the Obedience they had pay'd to his Highneſs's Commands, pretending withal that the Earl had cut his own Throat.

And from all theſe Circumſtances layd together it was that ſuch Violent Suſpicions have ſo generally taken Root in the Kingdom, that the Earl of *Eſſex* was no *Felo de ſe*, but aſſaſſinated by Others.

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*FINIS.*

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